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### Why We're Unhappy? [synopsis]

Louise Liston

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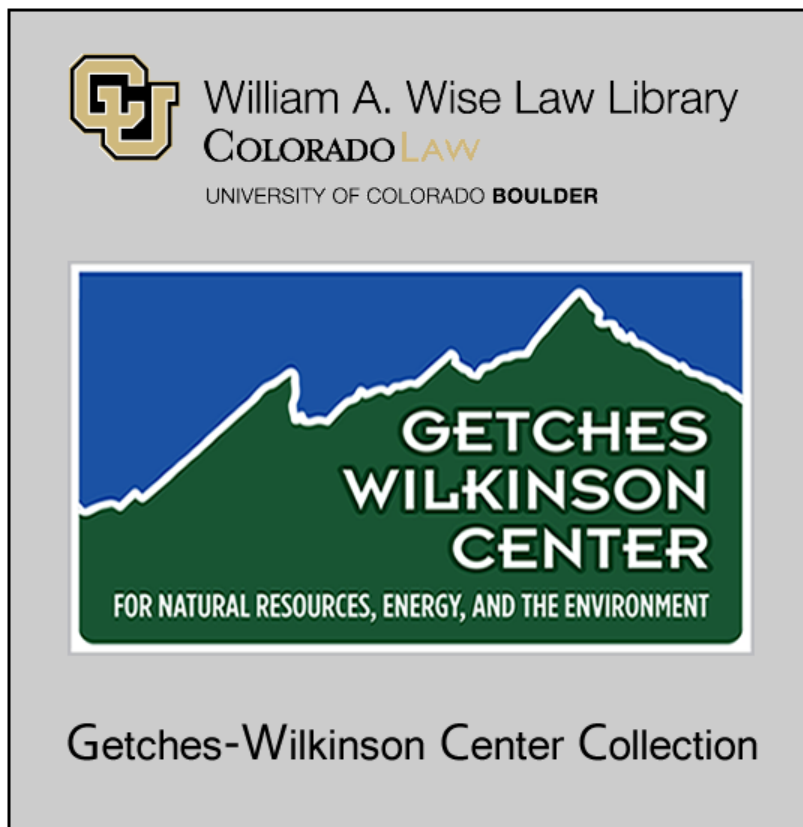
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FOR PANEL  
WHY WE'RE UNHAPPY?

Louise Liston  
Garfield County Commissioner  
Panguitch, Utah

CHALLENGING FEDERAL OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT:  
PUBLIC LANDS AND PUBLIC BENEFITS

October 11-13, 1995

Natural Resources Law Center  
University of Colorado  
School of Law  
Boulder, Colorado

## **Louise Liston**

GARFIELD COUNTY COMMISSIONER, UTAH

### **Synopsis for Conference Panel Presentation "Why We're Unhappy"**

Massive centralization of power in government at any level deprives its citizens of self-government. Every two or four years we get to vote for senators, congressmen, and even presidents. But we are experiencing less and less control over our lives because we have no control over the people who ultimately set the rules and regulations by which we live and how we can or cannot use our lands. They have, in fact, become so arrogant with their power that they actually feel they are above the law. An example of that very mind set is reflected in the words of a former director of the BLM, Jim Baca, when he asserted that if Congress refused to enact a restriction on livestock grazing on public lands, he would implement his own restrictions administratively.

When a government regulates and restricts so many facets of our lives where it has no business doing so, it begins to fail in its effectiveness in meeting its most basic responsibilities, and at that point our fundamental freedoms are no longer protected.

Elected officials on a local level have their fingertips on the pulse of the nation. They deal on a daily basis with the problems and are best equipped with the background, experience, and information to come up with sensible, right decisions.

Local government is where justice and honesty are best served and efficiency in government is most likely to occur. To allow those sitting in Washington who are not directly accountable to the people to determine our destiny simply does not make sense and that is why "we are not happy." (Examples are numerous and will be presented.)